



**MARKET HARBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary State of
the District for the year**

1947,

BY

**S. P. STOKER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., Hon.M.Sc.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND

**B. G. ELLIOTT, M.R.San.I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.**



MARKET HARBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary State of
the District for the year**

1947,

BY

S. P. STOKER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., Hon.M.Sc.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

B. G. ELLIOTT, M.R.San.I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MARKET HARBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health and the
Sanitary Inspector for 1947.

GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

STATISTICS.

Area (in Acres)	4,771
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	10,470
Number of inhabited houses	3,054
Rateable Value	£67,311
Sum represented by penny rate	£266

INDUSTRIES.

All the industries in the town have been fully employed during the year, a large proportion of the output of the principal firms being allotted for export. No new industries have been started.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	77	97	174
Illegitimate	6	2	8
	<hr/> 83	<hr/> 99	<hr/> 182
Still Births : Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 5
Deaths of infants under 1 year : Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 4
Deaths (all ages)	<hr/> 57	<hr/> 53	<hr/> 110

	1947.	1946.	England and Wales. 1947.
Live birth-rate (Per 1,000 population) :	17.38	19.2	20.5
Still birth-rate („ „ „) :	0.48	0.6	0.5
Death-rate („ „ „) :	10.50	10.2	12.0
Infant Mortality rate („ „ live births) :	21.9	47.3	41.0

Population :—The population has increased by 573 persons during the year.

Birth Rate :—As there were 8 fewer births and the population has increased, the rate has fallen nearly 2 points, and is still below the average for the country as a whole.

Death Rate :—Remains about the same as last year and is below the average.

Infant Mortality Rate :—Shows a marked decrease and is nearly half that of England and Wales.

Puerperal Fever :—No cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia were notified. There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Causes of Death :—The principal causes of death were :—

Cancer	... ..	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage		12
Heart Disease	... ..	30
Tuberculosis	.. ..	1
Pneumonia	... ..	2
Acute Polio-myelitis	... ..	1

There were no deaths from other infectious disease, Infantile Diarrhoea or road accident.

HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities :—The following examinations were carried out at the Leicestershire County Council Laboratory :—

Milk Examinations (Bacteriological)	88
Blood Counts	10
Sewage and Water Analyses	6
Sputa for T.B.	36
Milk for phosphatase test	39
Swabs for Diphtheria	14
Urine (General and Bacteriological)	9
Urine for T.B.	4
Ice Cream	21
Blood for Wassermann Test	13
Miscellaneous	6

Day Nursery.—The attendance at the Day Nursery was again good with an average daily attendance of 28 for the accommodation of 48 children. The lowered average for the year was due to the occurrence of a measles epidemic.

Ambulance Services.—The Ambulance Service is unchanged, infectious cases being moved by the County Council Service and all other cases being dealt with by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade with their customary promptitude and efficiency.

Home Nursing.—The District Nurse-Midwife is still in the employment of the Market Harborough and District Hospital (subsidised by your Council) and attended 70 confinements during the year. She also paid 1353 visits to sick people.

Centres and Clinics.—There are no treatment clinics in the town. Weekly anti-natal clinics are held in the Maternity Department at the Market Harborough and District Hospital by the Sisters in charge, and at the M. & C.W. Building by the District Nurse. The local doctors also attend these clinics. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is well patronised at its weekly sessions and is efficiently managed by the Health Visitor and a Voluntary Committee of ladies. The Health Visitor also visits all children under 5 years at their homes.

Hospitals.—The Market Harborough and District Hospital is a voluntary hospital and is subsidised by the Urban District Council. It has 18 beds and a Maternity Section of 15 beds. It also provides an efficient physio-therapy and X-ray department. The Public Assistance Hospital accommodates 50 patients.

Diphtheria Immunisation.— The Urban District Council provides immunisation for all children free of charge. This is carried out at the M. & C.W. Centre and at the doctors' surgeries. 159 children were immunised during the year.

Health Services Officers.—

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (Part-time).
- 1 Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time).
- 1 Health Visitor (Whole-time).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:—The water supply of the district, both in quality and quantity, has been satisfactory during the year, and no conditions arose necessitating the operation of the emergency scheme. Five samples of raw water from the piped supply were submitted to bacteriological examination and the reports were satisfactory.

A copy of the report of the Leicestershire County Council, dated 12th December, 1947, regarding the last sample from the town main, is appended:—

“No evidence of coliform organisms in 10 c.cs.
Culture almost sterile.”

No instances of contamination of the supply occurred and treatment of the water was not found to be necessary. Also the water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Two small extensions to mains have been carried out to supply private building estates.

Preliminary borings have been made on an estate of 700 acres and a scheme is being prepared for submission to the Ministry for additional wells and for central control and purification of the water from all the existing and proposed sources. The scheme is expected to cater for a 50% or more increase in consumption.

The present supply to dwelling-houses in the district is as follows:—

	Houses.	Population.
Number supplied from wells	48	164
Number supplied from public water mains:—		
(a) Direct to the houses	2,812	9,622
(b) By means of stand-pipes	200	684

Twenty-two samples of water from private wells were examined for the presence of pollution, and all were found to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage :—There have been no extensions during the year. Reconstruction plans for sewage disposal works are still in abeyance pending more favourable conditions.

Closet Accommodation :—Sixty-four new water closets have been added to the sewerage system during the year, and the number in the district is now approximately 4,255. Some twenty premises beyond the province of the sewers are provided with accommodation of the conservancy type.

Public Cleansing :—Arrangements are in operation to ensure that all houses and other premises are provided with regulation dustbins, and in response to notifications sent to owners of properties, 183 worn out dustbins were replaced by new ones. In several instances the attention of occupiers was drawn to the offensive condition of the bins. Domestic refuse and salvage material are collected weekly by direct labour, and S. D. freighter motor vehicles are used for the purpose. During the year 2,524 tons of refuse were dealt with at the Destructor Depot, of which the following quantities were salvaged :—

						Tons.	Cwts.
Paper	...	...	...	...	...	41	3
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	73	14
Textiles	...	...	...	...	...	11	7
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	...	2	14
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
						<hr/>	<hr/>
						136	0
						<hr/>	<hr/>

As a result of the Salvage Drive, the above amounts have increased by 20%.

A weekly collection of trade refuse is undertaken from 48 shops at payments in accordance with the Council's Scale of Charges.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	276
Defects or nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	642
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	348
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	0

						1st. Visits.	2nd. Visits.
<i>Inspections :—</i>							
Animal Keeping	...	...	...	...	...	19	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7	0
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	13	76
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	422	398
Factories, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	47	17
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	90	188
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	2	17
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	3,567	1,819
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
Slaughter House and Meat Inspection						1	266
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	67	57
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	22	3
Other Premises	...	...	...	...	...	108	84
						<hr/> 4,380 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,948 <hr/>

Dwelling Houses :—

General structural repairs effected	...	...	...	...	...	35
Drains and sanitary fittings repaired and new provided						25
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	183
Cleansing and other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	5
Licences renewed under Defence Regulation 68AA	...					2

Factories, etc :—

Sanitary accommodation provided or improved	...					5
Drainage and other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sundry nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	4

Shops :—

Sanitary convenience provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary convenience repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1

Miscellaneous Nuisances :—

Animal keeping nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dangerous structures made safe	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains repaired or unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	11

Smoke nuisances abated	3
Shed dweller removed	1
Pollution of stream remedied	1
Other effects remedied	16

Public Mortuary :—

The premises in King's Road are owned by the Council, and the use of the building was required on two occasions during the year. The Disinfecting Officer attends to the regular cleansing and hygienic maintenance of these premises.

Disinfection and Disinfestation :—

Infected rooms fumigated	57
Verminous rooms treated	149
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc :—	
Steam disinfected	550
Destroyed	39
Other articles disinfected	5
Number of instances of bug infestation :—	
Council Houses	1
Other Houses	6
Other infestations of domestic insect pests treated :—	
Ants	30
Cockroaches	5
Fleas	2
Flies	14
Lice	1
Miscellaneous	8

In the eradication of insect pests, the use of D.D.T. and Gammexane in liquid, powder or gaseous form have proved very effective.

Rats and Mice Destruction :—

The "Private Dwellings—Special Scheme," which was commenced in 1946, was completed in March, 1947, the whole district having been covered. Owing to the success of the Scheme, the Council decided to continue the systematic inspection of the district including the free service to occupiers of private dwellings. Many improvements have followed in

the wake of these visits of the Rats Officer in the cleanliness of the yards and outbuildings of premises, the removal of accumulations of refuse, the conditions under which poultry and domestic and other animals are kept and the repair and ratproofing of infested buildings.

The sewerage system again received a full treatment and a comparison of the result of the last three years is appended :-

Year.	Number of Manholes baited	Number of manholes where takes of pre-bait were recorded.
1945	349	59
1946	350	27
1947	369	13

The following is an abbreviated summary of the work accomplished during the year :—

Premises visited	... ..	3,567
Repeat visits	... ..	1,819
Number of infestations dealt with :—		
	Rats 172, Mice 46	218
(a) At Council properties	... ..	31
(b) At Private dwellings (free of charge)	...	132
(c) At business premises (occupiers charged)		55
Estimated number of rats killed (Ministry Formula)		1,254
Dead bodies recovered :—Rats 202, Mice 178	...	380

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control :—

Written consent to establishment of trade of Rag and Bone Dealer renewed	... ..	1
Written consent to establishment of trades of Fat Extractor, Fat Melter and Glue Maker in operation		1

These premises have been regularly inspected and the conditions found were generally satisfactory. Two matters affecting the conduct of the trades were given attention.

Petrol and Carbide Stores :—

	Petroleum Spirit.	Carbide of Calcium.
Number of Licences issued	... .. 1	0
Number of Licences renewed	... .. 31	1
Number of Licences transferred	... .. 1	0
Number of contraventions rectified	... .. 4	0

Swimming Bath :—

The Council's covered swimming pool has been open to the general public, also schools and other parties during the Summer. The water is treated by continuous circulation through a Paterson filtration, chlorination and aeration plant, and daily tests for chlorine content have been made by the Baths Manager. One sample was bacteriologically examined and was reported as satisfactory.

HOUSING.

During the year, fifty-five houses have been erected, as follows :—

		Council.	Private Enterprise.
Prefabricated—temporary	... ..	0	0
Prefabricated—permanent	... ..	0	0
Permanent construction	... ..	37	18

The total number of Post War Houses completed is 92.

In addition, alterations at seven existing houses provided eleven additional flats.

At the close of the year, fifty-nine permanent houses were in course of construction, viz. 29 by the Council and 30 by private enterprise.

Maintenance repairs to existing houses constitute a serious problem owing to licensing restrictions and the priority given to the provision of new houses. When the latter need has been met, attention will have to be directed to the repair and improvement of defective houses now considerably in arrears.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|--------|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... .. | 133 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | 255 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | ... .. | 0 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | 0 |

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	51
2.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	43
3.—Action under Statutory Powers	0
4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—	
(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	11
(b) Number of families dwelling therein ...	22
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	97
(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	16
(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	68
(4) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(5) Number of cases where sleeping accommodation is unsatisfactory although dwellings are not legally overcrowded	100

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :—

	Trade.	No. on Register.
Cowkeepers		8
Dairymen and Purveyors of milk (other than Cowkeepers)		4
Farms and other premises		18

The following Licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1941.

"Tuberculin Tested"—Dealer's Bottling	...	...	2
do. —Dealer's	...	...	2
"Pasteurised" (plants)	...	...	2
do. Dealer	...	...	1
do. Supplementary (Retailing)			1

Milk Sampling :—

Class.	Number of Samples for bacteriological examination.		Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	7	7	0
"Accredited"	...	6	6	0
"Pasteurised"	...	27	19	8
"Ordinary"	...	7	7	0
		—	—	—
Totals		47	39	8
		—	—	—

Seven of the above unsatisfactory samples were from one pasteurising plant, and represented one-third of the total samples from this source. For a considerable time, the plant has been operating under difficult conditions. The building and apparatus have been in use for many years and need replacement, as breakdowns are frequently occurring. Plans for a new dairy and plant were approved by the Council in February, and although new equipment is available, a licence for the building has not been granted by the Ministry concerned.

Premises where milk is produced, stored or treated were visited on eighty-nine occasions. Seven improvements in methods of handling, cleanliness, transport and structural repairs were effected.

Ice Cream :—

Trade.	Number of Premises Registered.
Manufacture and retail	2
Manufacture only	1
Retail only	9

Twenty-one samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Laboratory and examined by the Methylene Blue Test and the reports were as follows :—

Grade 1	12
„ 2	2
„ 3	2
„ 4	5

The unsatisfactory samples invariably occurred during the warmer weather. Seventy-two visits were made to premises and vehicles, and points of difficulty were discussed with manufacturers and vendors and advice given with a view to the attainment of a high standard in preparation and distribution. Thirteen improvements in type of apparatus, methods of handling and hygienic condition of premises were carried out.

Meat and other Foods :

The Council-owned slaughtering establishment has functioned throughout the year under Ministry of Food control as the Regional Abattoir and Distributing Centre for the supply of meat to the town and neighbouring districts. The premises have been well maintained and every attention has been given to ensure a satisfactory food supply. During the year, 6,084 animals were slaughtered, and 267 visits were necessary for the purpose of routine examination of all carcasses and organs before release for retail distribution. The total quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 20 tons 6 cwts. 3 qrs. 4½ lbs. entailing the issue of 199 certificates. One Licence to Slaughter was issued and one Licence renewed.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	932	230	1,146	3,717	59
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	8	9	2	122	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	343	68	5	243	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	37.7	33.5	0.6	9.8	30.5
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	13	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	124	66	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	14.7	34.3	0.1	—	8.5

Requests from food traders to inspect foodstuffs numbered seventy-three. Many kinds of controlled foods were examined, and several consignments were utilised for salvage purposes in compliance with directions from the Ministry of Food. In all, a total of 30,174 lbs. 3½ ozs., was found to be unfit for human consumption, which necessitated the issue of 150 condemn certificates.

Defects remedied at food premises :—

Structural and drainage defects rectified	7
Sanitary conveniences provided at cafes	2
Cleansing carried out	4
Refuse removed	3
Food exposed to contamination	6
Other defects remedied	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	Measles	...	...	...	335
Whooping Cough	...		0	Pneumonia	...	...		1
Diphtheria	...	...	0	Puerperal Fever	...			0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			0	Puerperal Pyrexia	...			0
Acute Polio-myelitis			3	(2 not confirmed)				

Deaths :—Acute Polio-myelitis 1

Tuberculosis :—

						Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
New Cases :—							
Male	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Female		...	...	...	...	5	2
						—	—
						7	2
						—	—
Deaths :—							
Male	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Female		...	...	...	...	1	0
						—	—
						1	0
						—	—

Yours faithfully,

S. P. STOKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

B. G. ELLIOTT,
Sanitary Inspector.



